

SCIENCE

And Technology Program



Debra Eberts and Sarah Wynn

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Revegetation of Reclamation sites is necessary in disturbed areas and areas reclaimed from weeds. Much effort and expense can be invested in controlling invasive weeds. However, if the now-vacant weed niche is not filled with a desirable species, it is often rapidly re-colonized by the same or another undesirable species. It is essential that information on suitable species and methods be available to Reclamation field staff for effective plant reestablishment programs.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Develop expertise in revegetation of Reclamation weed management areas.
- Compile a resource of seed/plant sources, planting methods, and establishment care suitable for Reclamation situations.
- Complete demonstration projects of revegetation after weed control.

Biological control of purple loosestrife at the Winchester Wasteway (Columbia Basin Project) is progressing rapidly. Seed sources for natural revegetation in this desert-turned-wetland may be sparse, so this site has been chosen as a demonstration site for revegetation after weed control. This project is still in the early stages: baseline data were collected this year in preparation for experimental treatments to be conducted this coming winter and spring.

A number of revegetation resources have been gathered and will be evaluated for relevance to Reclamation situations. This activity, as well as attending at least one professional meeting, will continue in FY 2000.

Cornell University

Bureau of Reclamation, Ephrata Field Office, Washington

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region

Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Policy